

Wyoming Department of Education State Plan for Nominating Schools for the 2016 Blue Ribbon Recognition Program

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) will only nominate schools in the category of Exemplary High Performing Schools for the 2016 Blue Ribbon Program. While Wyoming does not have an ESEA Flexibility Waiver, the state does have both the federal accountability system (AYP) and a state accountability system, the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA). The WAEA rates schools utilizing various data over four categories. Those four categories are: Does Not Meet Expectations, Partially Meets Expectations, Meets Expectations, and Exceeds Expectations (for more information on the WAEA, please see the [WDE website](#)). The WDE will nominate Blue Ribbon schools under the WAEA based on the school falling in either the Meets Expectations category or the Exceeds Expectations category (or a combination of the two categories) for the applicable years. The following procedures, including all Blue Ribbon eligibility requirements, will be used in addition to the preceding factors.

In order to nominate schools, the WDE will use a combination of ranking schools based on performance on the state's annual content assessment (for grades 3-8 this assessment is the Performance Assessment for Wyoming Students (PAWS) and for grade 11 it is the ACT) and the state's WAEA school ratings. The PAWS assessment tests Reading and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and Science in grades 4 and 8; ACT tests Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science. The ranking process for the Blue Ribbon nominations will only include an average of Reading and Mathematics, as described in Appendix A attached to this plan, and while the Mathematics and Reading areas will be averaged, both categories must individually illustrate proficiency for the top 15% of the state. Please note that while Appendix A does describe Wyoming's methodology for ranking schools (which is the same process used for the 1003(g) ranking), it will not include the progress ranking methodology notated on page 6 (as we will not be doing any prior year comparisons). In addition, schools will be ranked across all grade levels tested, however, any schools with enrollments under 100 students, or less than 10 tested students will be filtered out and not be included in the ranking process, **schools that did not meet the AMO/AYP requirements will be excluded after ranking has occurred**; Appendix A (Proficiency Index) attached to this plan also describes the process used for this area of the ranking procedures.

The subgroups that will be included in the school ranking will be the eleven (11) subgroups that are included under Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations. The minimum number of students that must be included in each subgroup in order to be ranked and held accountable for being in the top 40% for that subgroup will be ten (10) students. In addition, the WDE will use the federal guidelines when calculating graduation rates according to the following information found at: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/reg/proposal/uniform-grad-rate.html>. The most recent data that will be used for the 2015 Blue Ribbon nominations will occur with the available **2014-2015** data.